GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1635
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADATION OF COAL MINING
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for the technological upgradation of Coal Mining;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to improve the productivity of Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR.DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has planned for technological upgradation of its coal mines. At present there are a total of 305 existing underground mines as detailed below:

(i) 96 mines are already mechanized;

(ii) 209 mines are either manual or mixed i.e. having manual as well as mechanized workings. Of these, 80 mines are proposed for mechanization during the Xth Plan period and the remaining in the subsequent Five Year Plan. In opencast almost the entire coal production comes from mechanized mines. Thrust is being given for higher degree of mechanization in opencast mines with bigger size of Heavy Earth Moving Machineries (HEMM).

(c)&(d) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is a subsidiary company of CIL which has predominantly opencast mines. Following steps have been taken in MCL to increase productivity in its mines:-

1.Opencast projects are now being planned considering 330 working days per year against earlier norm of 300 days for better equipment utilization.

2.Opening more Greenfield Projects of high capacity to suit deployment of higher size equipment.

3.Increasing the capacity of the mine wherever possible.

4.Replacing the worn out equipment with higher size fleet to reduce the cost of operation and maintenance.

5.Introduction of Surface Miner to a greater extent in opencast mines eliminating drilling and blasting operation.

6.Increasing the machine availability & utilization percentage to improve productivity of machines.